

Q #473

Doc. No. 1810 A

Page 1.

Doc. "GO" No. 568 - Dated 11 July 1944

From: Minister SUZUKI (Office for the Affairs of Residents in
Enemy Countries, Foreign Ministry)

(Foreign Ministry
Seal)

To: Chief of Prisoner of War Information Bureau

Subject: Treatment of Prisoners of War in Burma and Siam

Regarding the treatment of prisoners of war interned in the
prisoner of war camps in Burma and Siam, Mr. Max Huber, Chairman of
the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva, sent us a telegram,
as annexed in this report. Please note the translation attached
herewith.

Concerning the return of seriously wounded and ill prisoners
of war as proposed by the International Red Cross Committee, there
will be much difficulty in its execution and therefore an answer
will be made that it would be difficult to make such arrangements
at present. In regard to the problems of the transfer of POW and
transportation and distribution of medical supplies which measures
we are now confronted with, we deem it should be considered, together
with the solution and execution of the problem of transporting
relief supplies, which is now being negotiated between Japan and
Great Britain and between Japan and the United States.

I would like to send the above reply, and would appreciate
your suggestion.

Distribution:

The War Ministry
The Prisoner of War Information Bureau
The Navy Ministry

POW INFORMATION
BUREAU
Received 12 July '44

(SEAL)	CHIEF
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(Translation of Telegram dated 23 June 1944, sent by Mr. Max Huber, Chairman of the International Red Cross Committee to the Foreign Minister)

(C.9819)

"Subject: Treatment of Prisoners of War in Burma and Siam

The International Red Cross Committee has the honor to inform the Japanese Government that it requests Japan to give every possible assistance for the well-being of the prisoners who are interned in the prisoner of war camps in Burma and Siam and for the purpose of preparing for the traditional service which is offered voluntarily to all belligerent nations, to guarantee more welfare to the prisoners of war and non-combatant civilian internees. They are suffering from aggravated illness brought about by medical and other causes, especially made morbid by the climatic conditions of the place of internment.

Regarding this matter, the International Red Cross Committee has the honor to propose to the Japanese Government that she give consideration to enter into a reciprocal agreement with the governments of the belligerent nations in reference to the transfer of those coming under Articles 69 and 72 of the Geneva Convention concluded in 1929 concerning the treatment of prisoners of war.

The International Red Cross Committee requests the Japanese Government to consent to the transfer of said prisoners of war to an area with better climatic conditions, and to guarantee better conditions for prisoners of war as a first step until the settlement of such an arrangement. To achieve this objective, the International Red Cross Committee is prepared to collect necessary medical supplies if the Japanese Government will give consideration for their transportation and distribution. The International Red Cross Committee will greatly appreciate any intimation from your Government on this matter.

I take this opportunity to renew assurances of my highest esteem to your Excellency."

POW Supply No. 36

dated 29 July 1944

From: Chief of Prisoner of War Information Bureau

To: Chief of General Staff of the "I" Units
Chiefs of Staff: OKA, MORI and TOMI Units
Commander of the Field Railway Unit of the Southern Army
Chiefs of Prisoner of War Camps in Malaya and Siam

Subject: Treatment of British prisoners of war in Burma

Regarding the above subject, the Foreign Ministry has applied to the Prisoner of War Information Bureau as per enclosed. Please inform me immediately whether such conditions have existed or not, and submit confirmation data.

Distribution:

"I" Unit (Refer: OKA, MORI, TOMI Units; Southern Army
Field Railway Unit; P.O.W. Camps in Siam and
Malaya)
Military Affairs Section notified. (SEAL)

Names of Joint Sec- tions or Bureaus		Depts. to be routed to after Execution		P. O. W. Information Bureau		
Filing	Dispatch Identi- fication Number	POW Supply No. 36	High Official	General Affairs Officer	Dispatch Officer	Officer IIMURA in (Seal) Charge
Approval Author- ized	Chief Officer	HAMADA (Seal)	High Official	ODAJIMA (Seal)	Officer in Charge	YASUDA (Seal)
Execution Author- ized	Draft Date	POW In- formation Bureau	Joint	Chief of Bureau	Chief of Section	Staff of Section
	Date of Dispatch	July 29, 1944	Routing after Execution			
Addressee	"I" Chief of General Staff OKA, MORI, TOMI, Chiefs of Staff Commander of Southern Army Field Railway Chiefs of P.O.W. Camps in Siam and Malaya					
Subject	Re British Prisoners in "Burma"					

We have received an inquiry from the Foreign Office concerning the above subject as annexed copy. Please inform us immediately as to whether or not such facts exist, and also we would appreciate any confutative data.

Distribution:

"I" Unit (Refer: OKA, MORI, TOMI Units;
Southern Army Field Railway Unit;
P.O.W. Camps in Siam and Malaya)

POW Supply No. 35

dated 29 July 1944

From: Chief of Prisoner of War Information Bureau
To : Minister SUZUKI, Office for the Affairs of Residents in Enemy
Countries, Foreign Ministry
Subject: Treatment of British Prisoners of War in Burma

In reply to your note, KYO-HI "GO" No. 599 regarding the above subject, I beg to reply as follows:

- (1) The prisoners of war in question interned in Burma belong to the prisoner of war camps in Siam or Malaya. The names of prisoners of war in Siam and Malaya camps have already been reported, which amounted to 10,000. The names of prisoners of war who died in that area are being reported successively.
- (2) Regarding matters other than the above, I will reply after investigating the facts.

Military Affairs Section notified.

(Seal)

	Name of Joint Section or Bureau		Depts. to be routed to after Execution	Prisoners of War Information Bureau			
Filing Period	Dispatch Identi- fication Number	POW Supply No. 35	High Official	General Affairs Officer	Dispatch Officer	Officer in Charge	IIMURA (SEAL)
Approval Author- ized	Chief officer	HAMADA (Seal)	High Official	ODAJIMA (Seal)	Officer in Charge	YASUDA (Seal)	
Execution Authorized	Draft Date	Division Name Prisoners of War In- formation Bureau	Joint	Chief of Bureau	Chief of Section	Staff of Section	
	Date of Dispatch	July 29 1944	Routing after Execution				
	Addressee	Ambassador SUZUKI		Dispatcher	Chief Officer		
	Subject	Re Treatment of British Prisoners of War in Burma					

The reply to KYOHIGO No. 599 concerning the subject is as follows:

(1) The prisoners in question at Burma belong to the Siam or Malaya POW Camp and 10,000 POWs of the Siam and Malaya POW Camps have already been reported. Information of POW deaths in that area is being gradually reported.

(2) Aside from the above-mentioned matters, answers will be given after facts have been investigated.

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Page 7.

MORI HO FUKU No. 7

Chief

(Seal)

POW Information
Bureau
Received
18 Jan. 1945
No. 1

From: Chief of Staff MORI 7900 Unit (Seal)
To: Chief of Prisoner of War Information Bureau
Subject: Reply to the Inquiry re British prisoners of war in Burma

In answer to POW Supply No. 36 (FUGAIDEN No. 49) re the above subject, the reply is as follows:

The case was investigated, but since a long time has elapsed since the occurrence, most of the people concerned have died in action or in illness, or have been transferred. Although we cannot investigate in detail, we conclude that the contents of the protest are contrary to the facts and that trivial matters have been exaggerated.

Protest No. 1:

This case may concern chiefly the prisoners of war interned in the Moulmein branch of the Siam prisoner of war camp who were sent from various districts in the south to construct the railroad between Siam and Burma under command of the headquarters of the Southern Army. However, no facts as stated in the protest are available.

Protest No. 2:

Although we cannot investigate in detail because there are no persons who know the circumstances at that time, the facts are not true.

Addressed to:

Chief of the Tokyo Prisoner of War Camp (for reference, SHIN 1160
Chief of the Prisoner of War Camp in Siam)

Malaya Prisoner "FU" No. 721

dated 9 October 1944

Chief
(Seal)

From: Chief of Malaya Prisoner of War Camp (Seal)
To: Chief of Prisoner of War Information Bureau
Subject: Report on the investigation re British prisoners of
War in Burma

POW
Information
Bureau No. 14
Received
1 Nov. 1944

I report as per enclosure with regard to the "I" SAN 3 Secret
No. 336.

Reported to: "I" (for reference: OKA Unit, Prisoner of War Information
Bureau)

Enclosure

Re: Item No. 1:

It concerns the time of the first occupation in 1942, and we
have investigated the MORI Area Army but were unable to find any record.
The following is a statement of a prisoner who is now interned in
branch No. 4 of this camp, and who was in Moulmein at that time:

1. Concerning the Moulmein district:

- A. It is not true that about 20,000 prisoners were interned
in or around Moulmein in 1942.

During March to June 1942 about 120 British prisoners of war,
including officers, and about 700 Indian prisoners of war
were interned in Moulmein, and about 79 Indian prisoners of
war and enemy civilians were interned in Daboi.

Prisoners in Moulmein were transferred in June 1942, and
prisoners in Daboi were transferred in February 1943, to the
Rangoon Field POW Camp (opened on March 19, 1942).

- B. No British prisoners of war were left in Moulmein and its
neighborhood after June, 1942.

During the internment period mentioned above, five British
(one of them due to wounds received in action) and five Indians
died. However, the food supplied to the prisoners in Moulmein
prison seemed to be pretty bad. Both British and Indians were
said to have been given small amounts of food twice a day, cooked
by Burmese. The present treatment was said to be a thousand
times better than that compared to Moulmein. In Daboi the
provisions were said to have been much better.

- C. Although I have no means to investigate the existence of such
facts, I do not believe that prisoners of war were interned in
Moulmein at that time.

2. At the front lines: According to reports of the Area Army, no
such facts existed.

POW
Information
Bureau
Received
Oct. 1944
No. 13

/TN: Date
obliterated)

"I" SAN 3 Secret No. 578

- dated 23 October 1944

From: Chief of Staff of the Southern Army (Seal)
To: Chief of Prisoner of War Information Bureau
Subject: Information re treatment of British prisoners of war in Burma

In regard to your letter of inquiry POW Supply No. 36 dated 29 July, I hereby submit the following report in enclosure that has been received.

Inspection	Officer in Charge	High Official	Chief Officer
Seal	Seal	Seal	Seal

Officer in Charge	Investigation Carried Within Squad	Disposed after reports from other sections were received.
Seal		
Dis- position	Personnel in Charge	Seal
Tag	Investigation Carried Outside of Squad	Matter will be sent to General Staff Head- quarters as reference
	Personnel in Charge	
Chief Clerk	Draft for Disposition	Expect to submit reply to Foreign Office summarized upon receipt of reply to POW Supply No. 36
SEAL	Personnel in Charge	SEAL

NAN YA TETSU RO No. 51

- dated 6 October 1944

From: Commander of the Southern Army Field Railway Unit (SEAL)
To: Chief of General Staff of the Southern Army
Subject: Report re British prisoners of war in Burma

I am sending you a report in reply to "I" SAN 3 Secret No. 336 concerning British prisoners of war in Burma (districts allotted for the construction of railway connecting Siam with Burma).

1. The number of patients and deceased prisoners of war who were engaged in the construction of the railway connecting Siam and Burma are as in Tables I and II. The prisoners of war include both British and Dutch and there is no way to investigate the British prisoners of war separately. For strategic reasons the completion of this railway was most urgent. Since the proposed site of the railway line was a virgin jungle, shelter, food provisions and medical supplies were markedly different from those under normal conditions for prisoners of war.

During the rainy season of 1943, transportation was frequently interrupted and both Japanese soldiers and prisoners of war were obliged to put up with much hardship. The Japanese army Medical Corps tried in vain to stem the violent outbreak of malaria and sicknesses of digestive organs. However, with the opening of the said railway in October 1943, both the number of patients and deaths diminished with the completion of provisions and facilities.

2. I know nothing about the insulting of British prisoners of war in Moulmein since it is out of the work area.

TABLE NO. 1

Prisoner of War Patients during the period between January, 1943
and July 1944. (Investigated by Siam Prisoner of War Camp)

Month	Total No. of POW Employed	Patients in Siam No.	Ratio to Total No.	Patients in Burma No.	Ratio to Total No.	Total No.	Ratio to Total No.
<u>1943</u>							
Jan.	37,086	18,052	48.6	11,496	31.0	29,548	79.0
Feb.	42,337	20,634	48.7	12,074	28.5	32,710	77.2
Mar.	47,009	21,516	45.8	14,987	31.9	36,498	77.7
Apr.	49,766	19,892	40.0	11,982	23.5	31,623	63.5
May	49,489	18,012	36.4	13,288	26.8	31,300	63.2
June	48,832	24,351	50.0	12,933	26.5	37,284	76.5
July	48,116	23,407	48.6	12,192	25.3	35,599	73.9
Aug.	47,162	23,269	49.3	12,538	26.6	35,807	75.9
Sept.	46,103	21,225	46.0	13,496	29.3	34,721	75.3
Oct.	45,277	23,801	52.6	12,141	26.8	35,942	79.4
Nov.	44,669	19,974	44.7	9,619	21.5	29,593	66.2
Dec.	44,372	19,497	43.9	12,380	27.9	31,877	71.8
<u>1944</u>							
Jan.	43,695	23,289	53.3			23,289	53.3
Feb.	43,116	22,977	53.0			22,977	53.0
March	43,173	20,427	47.3			20,427	47.3
April	43,116	20,324	47.1			20,324	47.1
May	43,083	20,080	46.6			20,080	46.6
June	43,028	17,418	40.5			17,418	40.5
July	40,960	5,468	13.4			5,468	13.4
Total		383,613		148,872		532,485	

TABLE NO. II

No. of Deaths Per month since Organization, from August, 1942 to August, 1944 (Investigated by Siam Prisoner of War Camp)

Month	Total No. of POW Employed	Deaths in Siam		Deaths in Burma		Total	
	No.	Ratio to Total No.	No.	Ratio to Total No.	No.	Ratio to Total No.	
<u>1942</u>							
Aug.	4,235	2	0.05 %			2	0.05 %
Sept.	4,234	2	0.05 %			2	0.05 %
Oct.	8,711	10	0.12 %			10	0.12 %
Nov.	26,484	54	0.20 %	10	0.04 %	64	0.24 %
Dec.	29,536	68	0.23 %	13	0.04 %	81	0.27 %
<u>1943</u>							
Jan.	37,086	62	0.17 %	58	0.15 %	120	0.32 %
Feb.	42,337	50	0.12 %	37	0.09 %	87	0.21 %
March	47,009	255	0.54 %	7	0.02 %	262	0.56 %
April	49,766	186	0.37 %	20	0.04 %	206	0.41 %
May	49,489	271	0.55 %	5	0.01 %	276	0.56 %
June	48,832	578	1.18 %	80	0.16 %	658	1.34 %
July	48,116	585	1.20 %	133	0.28 %	718	1.48 %
Aug.	47,162	800	1.69 %	154	0.33 %	954	2.02 %
Sept.	46,103	895	1.94 %	164	0.36 %	1,059	2.04 %
Oct.	45,277	656	1.45 %	171	0.38 %	827	1.83 %
Nov.	44,699	477	1.06 %	101	0.23 %	578	1.29 %
Dec.	44,372	340	0.77 %	4	0.01 %	344	0.78 %
<u>1944</u>							
Jan.	43,695	390	0.87 %	289	0.66 %	679	1.53 %
Feb.	43,316	416	0.96 %			416	0.96 %
March	43,173	145	0.34 %			145	0.34 %
April	43,116	57	0.13 %			57	0.13 %
May	43,083	64	0.15 %			64	0.15 %
June	43,028	60	0.14 %			60	0.14 %
July	40,960	40	0.09 %			40	0.09 %
Aug.	40,313	37	0.09 %			37	0.09 %
Total		6,500		1,246		7,746	

Siam Prisoner of War "FU" No. 384

(Seal) Chief

9 September 1944

From: Chief of Prisoner of War Camp in Siam
To: Chief of Prisoner of War Information Bureau
Subject: Information re British prisoners of war in Burma /Notification/

I am sending you a report regarding the facts A and B in Item No. 1 of the British protest note as stated in the Prisoner of War Supply No. 36. (Will notify)

This matter concerns the sacrifice of the administration of the prisoners of war for operational reasons temporarily and contains no material for refutation against the enemy protest.

Moreover, Item following "C" has no relation to us.

Branch Camp No. 3 was opened in Burma September, 1942 to intern 9,535 prisoners of war transferred from Java. Branch Camp No. 5 was opened in January, 1943 to intern 1,946 prisoners of war. These camps are under the command of the Fifth Railway Regiment and the prisoners of war were engaged in constructing a railway between Burma and Siam. At that time, provisions and rations were scarce. Quarters and establishments were poor and medical facilities were inadequate. Moreover, for operational reasons, it was necessary to complete the railway by August, 1943, and the work was pushed forward at a terrific pace, with the result that many prisoners of war became ill and many died, as per attached sheet.

Following the opening of the railway to traffic in October, 1943, all prisoners of war in Burma were successively concentrated in Kanchana-Buri, Nonbodor and Terpadam (phonetic), except a few who were to assist the Railway Unit. Both the quarter facilities and provisions have been improved at present and both the number of patients and deaths have decreased remarkably.

Seal of
Siam POW
Camp
Commandant

Prisoner of War
Information Bureau
Received
Oct. 4, 1944
No. 13

Officer in Charge	Investigation Carried Within Squad	
Seal	Personnel in Charge	
Tag of Disposition	Investigation Carried Outside of Squad	
	Personnel in Charge	
Clerk in Charge	Plans for Disposition	We will send a composite reply to the Foreign Office upon receiving reports from the commanders of I unit, OKA Unit, MORI Unit, TOMI Unit, Southern Army Field Railway, and the Chief of POW Camp in Malaya.
Seal	Personnel in Charge	Seal

Prisoner of War Patients during the period between January, 1943
and July 1944.

Month	Total No. Confined	<u>Patients in Siam</u>		<u>Patients in Burma</u>		Total
		No.	Ratio to Total No. Confined	No.	Ratio to Total No. Confined	Ratio to Total No. Confined
<u>1943</u>						
Jan.	37,086	18,052	48.6 %	11,496	31.0 %	29,548 79.0 %
Feb.	42,337	20,634	48.7 %	12,076	28.5 %	32,710 77.2 %
Mar.	47,009	21,516	45.8 %	14,982	31.9 %	36,498 77.7 %
Apr.	49,766	19,892	40.0 %	11,731	23.5 %	31,623 63.5 %
May	49,489	18,012	36.4 %	13,288	26.8 %	31,300 63.2 %
June	48,832	24,351	50.0 %	12,933	26.5 %	37,284 76.5 %
July	48,116	23,407	48.6 %	12,192	25.3 %	35,599 73.9 %
Aug.	47,162	23,269	49.3 %	12,538	26.6 %	35,807 75.9 %
Sept.	46,103	21,225	46.0 %	13,496	29.3 %	34,721 75.3 %
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Nov.	44,669	19,974	44.7 %	9,619	21.5 %	29,593 66.2 %
Dec.	44,372	19,497	43.9 %	12,380	27.9 %	31,877 71.8 %
<u>1944</u>						
Jan.	43,695	23,289	53.3 %			23,289 53.3 %
Feb.	43,316	22,976	53.0 %			22,977 53.0 %
March	43,173	20,427	47.3 %			20,427 47.3 %
April	43,116	20,324	47.1 %			20,324 47.1 %
May	43,083	20,080	46.6 %			20,080 46.6 %
June	43,028	17,418	40.5 %			17,418 40.5 %
July	40,960	5,468	13.4 %			5,468 13.4 %
Total		383,613		148,872		532,485

TABLE NO. II

TABLE of Deaths Since Organization, from August, 1942 to
August, 1944

Month	Total No.	Deaths in Siam		Deaths in Burma		Total	
	Confined	No.	Ratio to Total No. Confined	No.	Ratio to Total No. Confined	No.	Ratio to Total No. Confined
<u>1942</u>							
Aug.	4,235	2	0.05 %			2	0.05 %
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TABLE NO. IIICases of Cholera Among Prisoners of War

<u>Name of Camp</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Branch No. 3	Burma	34	13	
Branch No. 5		5	4	
Total		39	17	

C E R T I F I C A T E

W.D.C. No. _____

I.P.S. No. 1810Statement of Source and Authenticity.

I, Shibuya Shin hereby certify that I am officially connected with the Japanese Government in the following capacity: The Secretary of Investigation Section, POW Information Bureau and that as such official I have custody of the document hereto attached consisting of 37th pages, dated Feb 3, 1944, and described as follows: Concerning Treatment of Prisoners of War in Burma and Siam.

I further certify that the attached record and document is an official document of the Japanese Government, and that it is part of the official archives and files of the following named ministry or department (specifying also the file number or citation, if any, or any other official designation of the regular location of the document in the archives or files): 1st Demobilization Bureau (former War Ministry) Investigation Section of POW Information Bureau File number QA2.

Signed at Tokyo on this
22nd day of August, 1946

/s/ Shibuya Shin
Signature of Official
the Secretary of POW Information
Bureau SEAL
/s/ Shibuya Shin
Official Capacity

Witness: Aoyama Yukitaka
Chief of the Section of Archives,
POW Information Bureau

Statement of Official Procurement

I, Richard H. Larsh, hereby certify that I am associated with the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and that the above described document was obtained by me from the above signed official of the Japanese Government in the conduct of my official business.

Signed at Tokyo on this
23 day of Aug. 1946

/s/ Richard H. Larsh
NAME
Investigator
Official Capacity

Witness: /s/ J. A. Curtis 2nd Lt. M.I.

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Doc. No. 1810 A

Page 1

Doc. "GO" No. 568 - Dated 11 July 1944

From: Minister SUZUKI

To: Chief of Prisoner of War Information Bureau

Subject: Treatment of Prisoners of War in Burma and Siam

Regarding the treatment of prisoners of war interned in the prisoner of war camps in Burma and Siam, Mr. Max Huber, Chairman of the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva, sent us a telegram, as annexed in this report. Its translation is attached herewith.

Concerning the return of seriously wounded and ill prisoners of war proposed by the International Red Cross Committee, there will be much difficulty in its execution and therefore an answer will be made that it would be difficult to make such arrangements at present. The problems of the transfer of prisoners and transportation and distribution of medical supplies requested should be included, together with the solution and execution of the transportation of relief supplies which is now being negotiated between Japan and Great Britain and between Japan and the United States.

I would like to send the above reply, and would appreciate your suggestion.

Address of this communication:

War Minister
The Prisoner of War Information Bureau
The Navy Ministry.

(Translation of telegram dated 23 June 1944, sent by Mr. Max Huber, Chairman of the International Red Cross Committee to the Foreign Minister)

"Subject: Treatment of Prisoners of War in Burma and Siam

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The International Red Cross Committee requests the Japanese Government to consent to the transfer of said prisoners of war to an area with better climatic conditions, and to guarantee better conditions for prisoners of war as a first step until the settlement of such an arrangement. To achieve this objective, the International Red Cross Committee is prepared to collect necessary medical supplies if the Japanese Government will give consideration for their transportation and distribution. The International Red Cross Committee will greatly appreciate any intimation from your Government on this matter.

I take this opportunity to renew assurances of my highest esteem to your Excellency."

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Doc. No. 1810 A

Page 3

Prisoner Supply No. 36

From: Chief of Prisoner of War Information Bureau

To: Chief of General Staff of the "I" Unit.

Chiefs of Staff: OKA, MORI and TOMI Units

Commander of the Field Railway Unit of the Southern Army

Chiefs of Prisoner of War Camps in Burma and Siam

Subject: Concerning the treatment of British prisoners of war in Burma

Regarding the above subject, the Foreign Ministry has applied to the Prisoner of War Information Bureau as per enclosed. Please inform me immediately whether such conditions existed or not, and to submit confutation data.

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Doc. No. 1810 A

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Prisoner Supply No. 35

dated 29 July 1944

From: Chief of Prisoner of War Information Bureau

To: Minister SUZUKI

Subject: Treatment of British Prisoners of War in Burma

In reply to your telegram No. 599 regarding the above subject,
I beg to reply as follows:

- (1) The prisoners of war in question interned in Burma belong to the prisoner of war camps in Siam or Malaya. The names of prisoners of war in Siam and Malaya camps have already been reported, which amounted to 10,000. The names of prisoners of war who died in that area are being reported successively.
- (2) Regarding matters other than the above, I will reply after investigating the facts.

MORI KATA FUKU No. 7

From: Chief of Staff MORI 7900 Unit
To: Chief of Prisoner of War Information Bureau
Subject: Reply to the inquiry re British prisoners of war in Burma

In answer to the Prisoner Supply No. 36 (Prisoner of War Telegram No. 49) re the above subject, the reply is as follows:

The case was investigated, but since a long time has elapsed since the occurrence, most of the people concerned have died in action or in illness, or have been transferred. Although we cannot investigate in detail, we conclude that the contents of the protest are contrary to the facts and that trivial matters have been exaggerated.

Protest No. 1:

This case may concern chiefly the prisoners of war interned in the Moulmein branch of the Siam prisoner of war camp who were sent from various districts in the south to construct the railroad between Siam and Burma under command of the headquarters of the Southern Army. However, no facts as stated in the protest are available.

Protest No. 2:

Although we cannot investigate in detail because there are no persons who know the circumstances at that time, the facts are not true.

Address of this information:

Chief of the Tokyo Prisoner of War Camp (for information, SHIN 1160
Chief of the Prisoner of War Camp in Siam)

Malaya Prisoner "FU" No. 721

dated 9 October 1944

From: Chief of Malaya Prisoner of War Camp

To: Chief of Prisoner of War Information Bureau

Subject: Report on the investigation re British prisoners of war in Burma

I report as per enclosed with regard to the "I" SAN 3 Secret No. 33:

Addressee of this information: "I" (for information: OKA Unit, Prisoner of War Information Bureau)

Re: Item No. 1:

It concerns the time of the first occupation in 1942, and we have investigated the MORI Unit but were unable to find any record. The following is a statement of prisoner who is now interned in branch No. 4 of this camp, and who was in Moulmein at that time:

1. Concerning the Moulmein district:

- A. It is not true that about 20,000 prisoners were interned in or around Moulmein in 1942.

During March to June 1942 about 120 British prisoners of war, including officers, and about 700 Indian prisoners of war were interned in Moulmein, and about 79 Indian prisoners of war and enemy civilians were interned in Daboi.

- B. No British prisoners of war were left in Moulmein and its neighborhood after June, 1942.

During the internment period mentioned above, five British (one of them due to wounds received in action) and five Indians died. However, the food supplied to the prisoners in Moulmein prison was pretty bad. Both British and Indians were said to have been given small amounts of food twice a day, cooked by Burmese. The present treatment was said to be a thousand times better than that compared to Moulmein. In Daboi the provisions were said to have been much better.

- C. Although I have no means to investigate the existence of such facts, I do not believe that prisoners of war were interned in Moulmein at that time.

2. At the front lines: According to reports of the Army Unit, no such facts existed.

"I" SAN 3 Secret No. 578 - dated 23 October 1944

From: Chief of Staff of the Southern Army
To: Chief of Prisoner of War Information Bureau
Subject: Information re treatment of British prisoners of war in Burma

I send you a report regarding the subject mentioned above by the Prisoner Supply No. 36 dated July 29, as I have received the following report:

NAN YA TETSU RO No. 51 - dated 6 October 1944

From: Commander of the Southern Army Field Railway Unit
To: Chief of Staff of the Southern Army
Subject: Report re British prisoners of war in Burma

I am sending you a report in reply to "I" SAN 3 Secret No. 336 concerning British prisoners of war in Burma (districts allotted for the construction of railway connecting Siam with Burma.)

1. The number of patients and deceased prisoners of war who were engaged in the construction of the railway connecting Siam and Burma are as in Tables I and II. The prisoners of war include both British and Dutch and there is no way to investigate the British prisoners of war separately. For strategic reasons the completion of this railway was most urgent. Since the proposed site of the railway line was a virgin jungle, shelter, food provisions and medical supplies were far from adequate and much different from normal conditions for prisoners of war.

During the rainy season of 1943, transportation was frequently interrupted and both Japanese soldiers and prisoners of war were obliged to put up with much hardship. The Japanese army Medical Corps tried in vain to stem the violent outbreak of malaria and sicknesses of digestive organs. However, with the opening of the said railway in October, 1943, both the number of patients and deaths diminished with the completion of provisions and facilities.

2. I know nothing about the insulting of British prisoners of war in Moulmein since Moulmein is out of the work area.

TABLE NO. 1

Prisoner of War Patients during the period between January, 1943
and July 1944. (Investigated by Siam Prisoner of War Camp)

Month	Total No. of POW Employed	<u>Patients in Siam</u>		<u>Patients in Burma</u>		<u>Total</u>	
		No.	Ratio to Total No.	No.	Ratio to Total No.	No.	Ratio to Total No.
<u>1943</u>							
Jan.	37,086	18,052	48.6	11,496	31.0	29,548	79.0
Feb.	42,337	20,634	48.7	12,074	28.5	32,710	77.2
Mar.	47,009	21,516	45.8	14,987	31.9	36,498	77.7
Apr.	49,776	19,892	40.0	11,982	23.5	31,623	63.5
May	49,489	18,012	36.4	13,288	26.8	31,300	63.2
June	48,832	24,351	50.0	12,933	26.5	37,284	76.5
July	48,116	23,407	48.6	12,192	25.3	35,599	73.9
Aug.	47,162	23,269	49.3	12,538	26.6	35,807	75.9
Sept.	46,103	21,225	46.0	13,496	29.3	34,721	75.3
Oct.	45,277	23,801	52.6	12,141	26.8	35,942	79.4
Nov.	44,699	19,474	44.7	9,619	21.5	29,593	66.2
Dec.	44,372	19,497	43.9	12,380	27.9	31,877	71.8
<u>1944</u>							
Jan.	43,695	23,285	53.3			23,289	53.3
Feb.	43,316	22,977	53.0			22,977	53.0
March	43,173	20,427	47.3			20,427	47.3
April	43,116	20,324	47.1			20,324	47.1
May	43,083	20,080	46.6			20,080	46.6
June	43,028	17,418	40.5			17,418	40.5
July	40,960	5,468	13.4			5,468	13.4
Total		383,613		148,872		532,485	

TABLE NO. II

No. of Deaths since Organization, from August, 1942 to August, 1944
(Siam Prisoner of War Camp)

Month	Total No. of POW Employed	Deaths in Siam		Deaths in Burma		Total	
	No.	Ratio to Total No.	No.	Ratio to Total No.	No.	Ratio to Total No.	
<u>1942</u>							
Aug.	4,235	2	0.05			2	0.05
Sept.	4,234	2	0.05			2	0.05
Oct.	8,711	10	0.12			10	0.12
Nov.	26,484	54	0.20	10	0.04	64	0.24
Dec.	29,536	68	0.23	13	0.04	81	0.27
<u>1943</u>							
Jan.	37,086	62	0.17	58	0.15	120	0.32
Feb.	42,337	50	0.12	37	0.09	87	0.21
March	47,009	255	0.54	7	0.02	262	0.56
April	49,766	186	0.37	20	0.04	206	0.41
May	49,489	271	0.55	5	0.01	276	0.56
June	48,832	578	1.18	80	0.16	658	1.34
July	48,116	585	1.20	133	0.28	718	1.48
Aug.	47,162	800	1.69	154	0.33	954	2.02
Sept.	46,103	895	1.94	164	0.36	1,059	2.04
Oct.	45,277	656	1.45	171	0.38	827	1.83
Nov.	44,699	477	1.06	101	0.23	578	1.29
Dec.	44,372	340	0.77	4	0.01	344	0.78
<u>1944</u>							
Jan.	43,695	390	0.87	289	0.66	679	1.53
Feb.	43,316	416	0.96			416	0.96
March	43,173	145	0.34			145	0.34
April	43,116	57	0.13			57	0.13
May	43,083	64	0.15			64	0.15
June	43,028	60	0.14			60	0.14
July	40,960	40	0.09			40	0.09
Aug.	40,313	37	0.09			37	0.09
Total		6,500		1,246		7,746	

Siam Prisoner of War "FU" No. 384

From: Chief of Prisoner of War Camp in Siam
To: Chief of Prisoner of War Information Bureau
Subject: Information re British prisoners of war in Burma

I am sending you a report regarding the facts A and B in Item No. 1 of the British protest as stated in the Prisoner of War Supply No. 36.

This matter concerns the sacrifice of the administration of the prisoners of war for strategic reasons and contains no material for refutation against the enemy protest.

Item following "C" has no relation to us.

Branch Camp No. 3 was opened in Burma September, 1942 to intern 9,535 prisoners of war transferred from Java. Branch Camp No. 5 was opened in January, 1943 to intern 1,946 prisoners of war. These camps are under the command of the Fifth Railway Regiment and the prisoners of war were engaged in constructing a railway between Burma and Siam. At that time, provisions and rations were scarce. Quarters and establishments were poor and medical facilities were inadequate. Moreover, for strategic reasons, it was necessary to complete the railway by August, 1943, and the work was pushed forward at a terrific pace, with the result that many prisoners of war became ill and many died, as per attached sheet.

Following the opening of the railway to traffic in October, 1943, all prisoners of war in Burma were concentrated in Kanchana, Buri, Nonbodog (phonetic) and Termacam, except a few who were to assist the Railway Unit. Both the quarter facilities and provisions have been improved at present and both the number of patients and deaths have decreased considerably.

(Stamp shows receipt by Prisoner of War Information Bureau
4 October 1944)

TABLE NO. 1

Prisoner of War Patients during the period between January, 1943
and July 1944. (Investigated by Siam Prisoner of War Camp.)

<u>Month</u>	<u>Total No. of POW</u>	<u>Patients</u>	<u>in Siam</u>	<u>Patients in Burma</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Ratio to</u>	<u>Ratio to</u>
<u>Employed</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Ratio to</u>	<u>Total No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Total No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Total No.</u>
<u>1943</u>							
Jan.	37,086	18,052	48.6	11,496	31.0	29,548	79.0
Feb.	42,337	20,634	48.7	12,074	28.5	32,710	77.2
Mar.	47,009	21,516	45.8	14,987	31.9	36,498	77.7
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May	49,489	18,012	36.4	13,288	26.8	31,300	63.2
June	48,832	24,351	50.0	12,933	26.5	37,284	76.5
July	48,116	23,407	48.6	12,192	25.3	35,599	73.9
Aug.	47,162	23,269	49.3	12,538	26.6	35,807	75.9
Sept.	46,103	21,225	46.0	13,496	29.3	34,721	75.3
Oct.	45,277	23,801	52.6	12,141	26.8	35,942	79.4
Nov.	44,699	19,474	44.7	9,619	21.5	29,593	66.2
Dec.	44,372	19,497	43.9	12,380	27.9	31,877	71.8
<u>1944</u>							
Jan.	43,695	23,285	53.3			23,289	53.3
Feb.	43,316	22,977	53.0			22,977	53.0
March	43,173	20,427	47.3			20,427	47.3
April	43,116	20,324	47.1			20,324	47.1
May	43,083	20,080	46.6			20,080	46.6
June	43,028	17,418	40.5			17,418	40.5
July	40,960	5,468	13.4			5,468	13.4
Total		383,613		148,872		532,485	

TABLE NO. II

No. of Deaths Since Organization, from August, 1942 to
August, 1944 (Siam Prisoner of War Camp)

Month	Total No. Deaths in Siam			Deaths in Burma			Total
	of POW	Ratio to		Ratio to		Ratio to	
<u>Employed</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Total No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Total No.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Total No.</u>	
<u>1942</u>							
Aug.	4,235	2	0.05			2	0.05
Sept.	4,234	2	0.05			2	0.05
Oct.	8,711	10	0.12			10	0.12
Nov.	26,484	54	0.20	10	0.04	64	0.24
Dec.	29,536	68	0.23	13	0.04	81	0.27
<u>1943</u>							
Jan.	37,086	62	0.17	58	0.15	120	0.32
Feb.	42,337	50	0.12	37	0.09	87	0.21
March	47,009	255	0.54	7	0.02	262	0.56
April	49,766	186	0.37	20	0.04	206	0.41
May	49,489	271	0.55	5	0.01	276	0.56
June	48,832	578	1.18	80	0.16	658	1.34
July	48,116	585	1.20	133	0.28	718	1.48
Aug.	47,162	800	1.69	154	0.33	954	2.02
Sept.	46,103	895	1.94	164	0.36	1,059	2.04
Oct.	45,277	656	1.45	171	0.38	827	1.83
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May	43,083	64	0.15			64	0.15
June	43,028	60	0.14			60	0.14
July	40,960	40	0.09			40	0.09
Aug.	40,313	37	0.09			37	0.09
Total		6,500		1,246		7,746	

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TABLE NO.III

No. of Cases of Cholera Among Prisoners of War

<u>Camp</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>No. of Cases</u>	<u>No. of Deaths</u>
Branch No.3	Burma	34	13
Branch No.5	Burma	5	4
Total		39	17

Doc. No. 1810

C E R T I F I C A T E

W. D. C. No. _____

I. P. S. No. 1810

Statement of Source and Authenticity.

I, Shibuya Shin hereby certify that I am officially connected with the Japanese Government in the following capacity: the Secretary of Investigation Section, POW Information Bureau and that as such official I have custody of the document hereto attached consisting of 572 pages, dated Feb 3, 1944, and described as follows: Concerning Treatment of Prisoners of War in Burma and Siam.

I further certify that the attached record and document is an official document of the Japanese Government, and that it is part of the official archives and files of the following named ministry or department (specifying also the file number or citation, if any, or any other official designation of the regular location of the document in the archives or files): 1st Demobilization Bureau (former War Ministry) Investigation Section of POW Information Bureau File number QA2.

Signed at Tokyo on this
22nd day of August, 1946

/s/ Shibuya Shin
Signature of Official
the Secretary of POW Information
Bureau SEAL
/s/ Shibuya Shin
Official Capacity

Witness: Aryama Yakitaka
Chief of the Section of Archives
of the Secretary of POW Information Bureau

Statement of Official Procurement.

I, Richard H. Lersh, hereby certify that I am associated with the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and that the above described document was obtained by me from the above signed official of the Japanese Government in the conduct of my official business.

Signed at Tokyo on this
23 day of Aug. 1946

/s/ Richard H. Lersh
NAME

Investigator
Official Capacity

Witness: /s/ J. A. Curtis 2nd Lt. M.I.

(SEAL)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, SUZUKI, Sakae, do hereby certify that I am Chairman of the Committee of Conservators for Closed Institutions, having been appointed by the Japanese Government; that among the Closed Institutions under the direction of said Committee are the Central China Development Company, Ltd. and the North China Development Company, Ltd., that said Committee of Conservators has control and custody of such of the original records of said companies as are now or were in Tokyo, Japan and which have not been destroyed by fire; that the explanations of the items in the balance sheets of said companies certified by me on the 11th of September 1946 so far as the details are available and the items are not self-explanatory are set forth in "Exhibit A" hereto attached and made part hereof.

Dated: Tokyo, Japan
12 September 1946.

COMMITTEE OF CONSERVATORS FOR
CLOSED INSTITUTIONS

(SEAL)

/s/ S. Suzuki
Chairman

"EXHIBIT A" ATTACHED TO CERTIFICATE OF S. SUZUKI RE BALANCE
SHEETS OF THE CENTRAL CHINA DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LTD. AND THE
NORTH CHINA DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LTD. DATED 12 SEPTEMBER 1946.

Central China Development Company, Ltd.

ASSETS:

Investment and Loan Account	¥4,971,713.250
is to subsidiaries of the company	
Miscellaneous Accounts	
Item - Accounts Receivable	7,762,991.65
Uncollected dividends on shares held by the company of subsidiaries	
Bills Receivable	8,416,620.00
No explanation available	

LIABILITIES:

Debenture Account	
Issued in Japan	¥334,600,000
Issued in China	18,000,000
	¥352,600,000
Borrowing Account ¥5,180,420,000	
Yokohama Specie Bank, Shanghai	¥4,339,840,000
Separate Account, Yokohama Specie Bank, Shanghai	461,330,000
Bank of Chosen, Shanghai	9,900,000
Life Ins. Association Japan in China	207,150,000
Non-Life Insurance Association (Fire, &c)	5,000,000
Deposit Department of Ministry of Finance	
Japanese Government	52,650,000
Japanese Syndicates	53,500,000
Industrial Bank of Japan	500,000
	¥5,180,420,000

Items Miscellaneous Account

Account payable ¥4,880,349.66 is interest on debentures and other interest due.

Suspense account ¥5,913,383.49 details not available but is money temporarily received.

Received interest not due ¥35,001,404.96 is interest received in advance (discounted) from subsidiaries.

Acceptance and Guaranty ¥40,000,000.00

Not included in figures of balance sheet either as assets or liabilities.

Explanation Capital account - Authorized Capital	¥143,424,250.00
Less unpaid capital	<u>37,559,304.00</u>
Paid-up Capital	¥110,864,946.00

Investment by Japanese Government in Central China Development Co., Ltd. ¥98,424,250.00

NORTH CHINA DEVELOPMENT CO., LTD.

ASSETS:

Investment ¥908,318,789.50 in subsidiary companies.

Loan ¥2,817,312,000.00 to subsidiary companies.

Advance ¥12,309,602,047.62 to subsidiary companies - details not available.

Accounts Receivable - Japanese subsidies not collected and interest on loans

¥95,492,453.10

Deposits Bank - ¥12,643,917.82

Temporary payment - ¥33,074,527.15 for construction wood ships, etc. (S.S.)

LIABILITIES:

Debenture ¥2,130,200,000 - Sold to Japanese syndicates.

Borrowings - ¥2,871,500,000. Borrowed in advance of issue of debentures to syndicates. Closed when debentures are actually issued.

Overdraft with banks ¥13,188,595,895.94 only item explanation available is overdraft with the Bank of Chosen in Tokyo ¥56,163,923.27. Other details of this account are not available because records are in Peiping, China.

Deposit Payable ¥112,350,000.00 due to subsidiary companies.

Capital Account

Authorized ¥443,000,000.00

Unpaid capital 131,250,000.00

Paid-up capital ¥311,750,000.00

Investment by Japanese Government in North China Development Co., Ltd.
¥254,250,000.

/s/ S. Suzuki

(SEAL)

IPS NO. 2298 Sup
Exhibit No. 469

COMMITTEE of CONSERVATORS
for CLOSED INSTITUTIONS

CERTIFICATE

I, S. Suzuki, Chairman of the Committee of Conservators for Closed Institutions, do hereby certify, under seals that the attached statements of the North China Development Company and the Central China Development Company are true and correct copies of the balance sheets in the Annual Statements issued by the North China Development Company and the Central China Development Company, as of March 31, 1945, the originals of which are in our control and custody.

Dated Tokyo: Japan 11 September 1946.

COMMITTEE of CONSERVATORS
for CLOSED INSTITUTIONS

Chairman



North China Development Co., Ltd.

As on March 31, 1945

Balance sheet

- Assets -

Unpaid Capital	¥ 131,250,000.00
Investment	908,318,789.50
Loan	2,817,312,000.00
Property as a part of investment by government	12,378.00
Real Estate, Equipments	19,541,429.24
Securities held by the Company	1,013,200.00
Advance	12,309,602,047.62
Account receivable	95,492,453.10
Deposits	12,643,917.82
Cash	1,385,910.34
Fund for payment of principal & interest of Debentures	62,507,295.88
Difference on debentures	26,262,033.43
Temporary payment	33,074,527.15
Company's own enterprises	1,306,447,126.50
Government ordered enterprises	1,035,140,501.08
Clearing account with Subsidiaries	160,511,438.34
Securities against employees Securities in Custody	364,379.50
Total	¥ 18,920,879,427.50

- Liabilities -

Capital	¥ 443,000,000.00
Reserve under legal requirement	1,648,939.69
Employees Retirement allowance	164,894.39
Debenture	2,130,200,000.00
Borrowings	2,871,500,000.00
Overdraft with Banks	13,188,595,895.94
Bills payable	10,000,000.00
Account payable	58,904,191.91
Principal & Interest of debentures	62,507,295.88
Deposit payable	112,350,000.00
Deposit by Employees	268,695.50
Suspense account	10,124,817.71
Employees Securities in custody	364,379.50
Profit of this year	31,250,316.98
Total	¥ 18,920,879,427.50



(N)

Central China Development Co., Ltd.

Balance Sheet

As on March 31, 1945

- Assets -

Investment and Loan account

¥ 4,971,713,250.00

Investment	144,061,390.00
Loan	3,401,958,260.00
Advance	1,425,693,600.00

Government ordered enterprise

283,568,256.16

Securities held by Company

623,221.00

Japanese Government Bonds	153,221.00
Debentures	200,000.00
Stocks	270,000.00

Deposits and Cash

98,064,121.34

Deposits at Banks	74,108,071.23
Postal savings	2,000.00
Postal money transfer	1,874.95
Cash	23,952,175.16

Materials account

258,682,935.57

Property

1,266,941.42

Real estate	31,500.00
Building	6,000.00
Fixture	583,453.43
Furniture	645,987.93

Miscellaneous account

81,468,037.13

Temporary payment	7,366,593.59
Account receivable	7,762,991.65
Bills receivable	8,416,620.00
Office articles	3,357,179.00
Difference on Debenture & Issuing charges	4,833,299.00
Investment money	55,000.00
Advance on Employees' residence	263,114.65
Guaranty money deposited	67,433.26
Paid interest not due	49,345,800.98

Customer's Liabilities against
acceptance and guaranty

(40,000,000.00)

Sub-total

¥ 5,695,386,762.62

Share holders account

37,559,304.00

Unpaid capital

37,559,304.00

Total

¥ 5,732,946,066.62

(4)

Central China Development Co., Ltd.

- Liabilities -

Central China Development Co debenture account		¥ 352,600,000.00
Central China Development Co debenture	¥ 352,600,000.00	
Borrowing account		5,180,420,000.00
Borrowing	5,180,420,000.00	
Miscellaneous account		46,383,930.86
Dividend payable	66,855.25	
Account payable	4,880,349.66	
Suspense account	5,913,383.49	
Employees guaranty money	191,743.46	
Deposits by employees	330,194.04	
Received interest not due	35,001,404.96	
Acceptance and guaranty (40,000,000.00)		
Sub-total		¥ <u>5,579,403,930.86</u>
Share-holders account		153,542,135.76
Capital	148,424,250.00	
Reserve under legal requirment	680,716.05	
Reserve for retirement allowance of employees	273,971.61	
Profit brought forward from previous year	2,072,050.22	
Profit for this year	2,091,147.88	
Total		¥ <u>5,732,946,066.62</u>